

Qwest Foundation for Education Competitive Sub-grant Proposal Assurance Sheet

Project Title: XCS Performing Arts Recording Studio Amount of Request: \$ 9525

Name of Certificated Teacher (or "lead teacher" if more than one): Kim Kokx

Name of School currently teaching at: Xavier Charter School

District Name: Xavier Charter School (LEA) District Number: 462

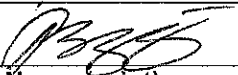

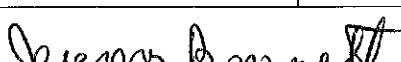
Total number of teachers involved (if more than one): 5

Approximate number of students impacted: 1000 Grade level(s) impacted: K-12

Content area(s) impacted: Music

I certify that if I receive a Qwest Foundation for Education Grant –

- I agree to create a 5-minute video highlighting my project for the purposes of sharing best practices with other Idaho K-12 teachers.
- I agree to do one presentation on my project to other Idaho K-12 teachers before October 31, 2011.
- I agree to submit an electronic report to the Idaho State Department of Education before October 31, 2011.

Superintendent Name (print)	E-mail	Telephone
Thad Biggers	tbiggers@xaviercharter.org	(208)734-3947
Signature 		
Principal Name (print)	E-mail	Telephone
Thad Biggers	tbiggers@xaviercharter.org	(208)734-3947
Signature 		
Teacher or Lead Teacher Name	E-mail	Telephone
Kim Kokx	kkokx@xaviercharter.org	(208)734-3947
Signature 		
Technology Director (print)	E-mail	Telephone
Jeremy Bennett	jbennett@xaviercharter.org	(208)734-3947
Signature 		

Submit one digital copy (PDF format) of your proposal by November 19, 2010 via e-mail to:

Jimmy Takata
jtakata@sde.idaho.gov
208.332.6937

***Only one PDF file per teacher applicant will be accepted (this includes the Assurance Sheet). Faxes will not be accepted**

Qwest Foundation for Education

Subgrant Proposal Abstract

Xavier Charter School is an Idaho Charter Commission Authorized public charter school located in Twin Falls, Idaho. Our school utilizes a classical education model combined with a focus on the fine arts. Our mission and vision include instilling: "A love of perpetual learning; an aspiration for personal achievement and the capacity to become cooperative contributors of society." We believe that our students are preparing for successful futures by engaging them in a rigorous course of study combined with challenging electives in a number of content areas and advanced fine arts courses for students that wish to pursue their interests in the arts.

The performing arts program at XCS includes instrumental music, vocal music, and dance and theater that all begin with kindergarten. Students participate in all four areas throughout elementary school and develop strong foundational skills through work in the piano/keyboard lab and through classroom work with each of our performing arts teachers. In our secondary program, students begin to specialize in particular areas of interest and many participate in a number of performing arts groups and in annual school productions.

At the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year, XCS began construction on a permanent building, expanded its elementary school and added additional grades in the high school. In the fall of 2010, the XCS community moved into its new building. The school doubled its student population over the past two years and will have its first graduating class in the spring of 2011. As more students participate in advanced performing arts classes and express an interest in pursuing performing arts opportunities after high school, we believe that it is important to provide additional cutting edge opportunities related to the performing arts fields.

My proposal is designed to accomplish three primary goals. First, I would like to create a recording studio that will be placed in our new permanent building (upon its completion) that will allow students in all of the performing arts programs to record their own work. Second, I would like to provide training for students that will allow them to develop skills using cutting edge recording technology being utilized in the recording industry today that will give them a "hands on" approach with the creation of their own XCS programs. Third, I would like to have the tools and equipment to create annual recordings of each performing arts group for students, parents and community members.

My proposal establishes a basic recording studio using music industry-recognized equipment that will allow XCS to achieve all three goals. In future years, the performing arts program will build upon this initial program by adding additional equipment and eventually by adding credit-bearing courses in audio and visual recording.

The proposed project will address the following objectives:

- Increase student understanding and use of technology in the fine arts
- Allow students to develop initial knowledge and skill in audio recording
- Increase students' ability to record their own examples of creativity in the arts by producing audio recordings of their work
- Provide a foundation for XCS to expand its fine arts program by offering students opportunities to use technology associated with the music industry

**Qwest Foundation for Education
Subgrant Proposal
Current Innovation**

As a music teacher, I am so challenged by how technology can greatly enhance the beauty of the arts around my classroom. Our charter school is a perfect blend of classical education with an emphasis in the fine arts, allowing teachers to dream of endless possibilities for their students. At the elementary level, we already are utilizing technology to teach piano to over 180 students in our school using Roland keyboards that interface with not only each other but with a master piano that all students can hear and play along with. Using this technology allows us to use direct instruction, which is our classroom model, to many students at many different musical levels. Each child receives three years of piano instruction before they enter the fourth grade. However, every class I teach in my department could greatly use more technology to enhance our curriculum. In Vocal Seminar, students study solo pieces of music daily and are asked to perform for class weekly. Although they receive verbal feedback from myself and their peers, being able to hear a live recording of themselves would truly open their eyes to their performance. Understanding how to emphasize their vocal ability can only occur when they are surrounded by nothing else than their own voice. In our show choirs, the use of harmony challenges and stretches our musicians' ears. Recording pieces would give them the opportunity to lay down tracks one part at a time, hearing how intricate parts fit together to make a beautiful tapestry. Also, with their vocal parts recorded, their choreography can be more challenging, as they have their own voices to support their performance. The most exciting aspect of having a recording studio on campus is the possibility for original compositions from every student, from pianists and vocalists to instrumentalists and theatrical performances. Currently, every student voice and piano is striving to compose their own composition. If our school had its own studio, these students could record their own works and make a compilation CD of Xavier Charter School music. How gratifying and educational it would be to watch your own creation come to life! What an opportunity to hear what all the other students are able to produce, from violinists to amazing jazz instrumentalists. I can think of no other place where technology could compliment and expand the groundwork that has been laid...the performing arts curriculum at Xavier Charter School would continue to blossom and expand its' dreams for students striving for excellence.

**Qwest Foundation for Education
Subgrant Proposal
Project Narrative**

Project Description: The XCS recording studio project would allow us to accomplish some of the goals that we have identified within our program and it would allow our students to develop even more advanced skills in both fine arts and in technology. The XCS project plan is to build a professional recording studio within our building that will allow students to learn the process of creating professional-quality audio and visual recordings and will allow us to produce recordings of individual students and performing arts groups. We believe that this will offer students an innovative and exciting opportunity at XCS to help students develop skills that they can take with them when they graduate.

The specific project proposed during this project period will allow students in grades 10, 11 and 12 to apply specific music principles aligned with state standards in the development of either an original composition or the performance of a piece of music. Students will learn basic sound design concepts, microphone placement, acoustic variables and software program elements in order to create a professional quality recording of the composition or performance.

Often, students separate content areas and miss connections between the skills, knowledge and concepts they develop in one content area and application in another area. Music offers an ideal opportunity for students to connect musical ability; creativity; understanding of patterns and mathematical concepts; appreciation of historical context; understanding of poetic devices, and the application of technology. Through the XCS recording studio project, students will be asked to make those connections while either designing an original piece of music or choosing and performing a piece of music in order to practice the new technology skills they learn by using the recording studio.

The proposed project will address the following objectives:

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- Allow students to develop initial knowledge and skill in audio recording
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- Provide a foundation for XCS to expand its fine arts program by offering students opportunities to use technology associated with the music industry

During the initial project period, XCS team members will plan for the next phase of development of the recording studio. That will include opportunities for students in other grade levels to utilize the equipment and technology as well as additional lessons, units and courses designed to teach students advanced recording techniques for audio recording and beginning techniques in sound design for video.

Project Goals: We have established three long-term goals for the XCS recording studio: First, we would like to create a recording studio that will be placed in our new permanent building that will allow students in all of the performing arts programs to record their own work. Second, we would like to provide training for students that will allow them to develop skills using cutting edge recording technology that they can use within the XCS programs and in the recording industry. Third, we would like to have the tools and equipment to create annual recordings of each performing arts group for students, parents and community members. After our initial efforts are complete we will look at ways to expand opportunities to include more video production and to offer students opportunities to earn credits and to create senior projects utilizing the XCS studio and possible internships with other participating local television and audio studios.

Project Team: The XCS project team will be led by Kim Kokx, the choir director and music instructor at XCS. The team will also include Thad Biggers, XCS administrator, Jason Hicks, XCS fine arts instructor, Cindy Jones, XCS dance instructor, Teresa Berry, XCS Board Member, Brandon Fairbanks, budget and facilities management, and Aaron Ivie, volunteer and recording studio owner (he has agreed to volunteer to help set up equipment, provide training and help the team with initial recordings).

Feasibility: This project builds upon a strong foundation in fine arts that already exists at XCS. Since the fine arts program is already well-established and the project team includes individuals who are knowledgeable in all aspects of project development, we believe this project will be very successful. In addition, since XCS is currently building a permanent building, establishing a recording studio as part of that permanent building will allow for ideal design and implementation.

Sustainability: Once the initial equipment is purchased, the cost of sustainability is rather small. Software and equipment updates can be included in the regular school budget and materials and supplies can be purchased as needed. Larger equipment purchases will be proposed to expand the studio and include video production. In addition, XCS will plan for ongoing training to ensure that staff members understand how to use the technology available in case there is staff turn-over or new staff members would like to utilize the studio.

School/District Support: The XCS Board of Directors and Administrator are very supportive of the current fine arts program and include it as part of our charter school's focus. They are excited about the addition of a recording studio and the opportunities it will provide students to develop additional technology skills. They are also looking forward offering additional courses to students and to being able to have recordings of some of the current work the students do through our classes and our performing arts groups. They are committed to including ongoing costs in the XCS budget and to looking for opportunities for expansion.

Anticipated Outcome/Impact: We believe that there will be tremendous outcomes for students and for our school. First, we will be able to train students in an area that they are currently not proficient in and we will be using the technology used by professionals in the music industry. Second, we will be able to have our fine arts students create recordings of their work, share those with others and use them to improve. Third, we will be able to offer credit bearing courses and senior project opportunities not currently available to students in the Magic Valley. This will be good for our students and may attract additional students who are interested in pursuing their interests in this area. Fourth, we will be able to provide students with an outlet for creativity and encourage them to compose their own unique and original works of art. Finally, we will be able to provide our stakeholders with professional quality recordings of their children, grandchildren, community members and friends so that they can enjoy productions after they attend a concert or theater production.

**Qwest Foundation for Education
Subgrant Proposal
Project Scope and Sequence**

The XCS Performing Arts Studio will begin operation during the second semester of the 2010-2011 school year. The following steps will occur beginning in January 2011 and continuing through December 2011:

- January 2011 – XCS will order equipment and students will work with the music teacher, art teacher and several parent volunteers to build appropriate tables and desks to house the studio within the current secondary school building.
- February 2011 – The XCS music teacher and high school students in advanced performing arts groups will install equipment as it arrives and will attend training sessions provided via online professional development from the software company and in-person training by local volunteers.
- March – May 2011 – Students will work with the music teacher and local volunteer to practice recording, mixing and producing CDs.
- May 2011 – XCS will produce a CD with recordings from each music group.
- June 2011 – August 2011 – The XCS music teacher, other performing arts teachers and volunteers will move equipment to the permanent building and set up the recording studio in its permanent location
- June 2011 – August 2011 – The XCS music, theater, visual arts and dance teachers will work together to create a one semester, credit bearing, course in audio and visual recording production to be offered during the 2011-2012 school year.
- June 2011 – August 2012 - The XCS music, theater, visual arts and dance teachers will work together to create a timeline and plan for school productions to be completed during the 2011-2012 school year.
- September 2011-2012 – XCS students will work with teachers to implement the timeline established
- 2011 – 2012 School year – students will register and complete a course in audio and visual recording
- April 2012 – May 2012 – The XCS music, theater, visual arts and dance teachers will work together to collect baseline data, evaluate the first full year of the program and establish goals for the following year.

**Qwest Foundation for Education
Subgrant Proposal
Budget Narrative**

The XCS Performing Arts Recording Studio will begin by creating an audio recording studio that will allow students to develop proficiency in utilizing industry-recognized sound recording equipment.

The studio will include a desktop audio workstation (DAW) including a computer, custom keyboard and software that will allow students to record live music performances by individuals and groups and then produce digital recordings.

The Pro Tools LE DIGI 003 Bundle includes the Digidesign 003 Factory Pro Tools LE Workstation, Pro Tools 9 software, M-Audio Keystation Pro 88 MIDI Controller, Akai MPD24 USB Controller, Fostex PM0.4 Powered Studio Monitor pair (speakers), MXL 9000 Tube Condenser Microphone, CAD EPF-15A 6 inch flexible pop filter, 2 x 20 ft Lo-Z Microphone cables, tripod mic stand with fixed boom and various 2 x 5 ft TRS-TRS (tip, ring, sleeve) balanced patch cable. This bundle contains the basic technology utilized by large, well-known recording studios in the production of professional-quality CDs and audio productions. The use of this equipment will allow students to develop skills that they could take with them into post-secondary training programs as well as career opportunities within the music industry.

The Factory Pro Tools LE Workstation has an extensive range of audio and MIDI input/output, high definition audio resolution, creativity and speed of industry-standard Pro-Tools software, high speed FireWire connectivity , and additional software that will allow students to receive the same professional audio results as commercial facilities. The Pro Tools LE provides everything students will need to compose, record, edit, mix and master audio for music and desktop post-production projects.

The additional budget items include all of the equipment needed to record and create CDs. Those items include mics, cables, an equipment rack, mixer, subwoofer, headphones and blank CDs that will allow students to burn their work onto disks once they have completed a production.

The computer, monitors and equipment included in this budget will create the initial recording studio and it is XCS's plan to build upon this studio by adding visual recording equipment and software during the 2011-2012 school year. Once that equipment is added, students will be able to create video recordings of theater productions, create DVDs and even consider developing senior projects that include documentary film-making efforts, CDs of original music compositions and professional recordings of school productions.

Qwest Foundation for Education
Subgrant Proposal
Budget Spreadsheet

ACTIVITY	MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	CAPITAL OBJECTS	QUANTITY	PRICE PER UNIT	SUBTOTAL
Recording Studio		Computer	1	\$2200	\$2200
Recording Studio		20" Monitor	2	\$270	\$540
Recording Studio		Pro Tools LE DIGI 003 Bundle	1	\$3150	\$3150
Recording Studio		Custom Keyboard	1	\$105	\$105
Recording Studio		Audio Patch Bay	1	\$100	\$100
Recording Studio		Plosive Screen	1	\$70	\$70
Recording Studio		Cables	10	\$30	\$300
Recording Studio		Amplifier	1	\$300	\$300
Recording Studio		Subwoofer	1	\$250	\$250
Recording Studio		Boss DR 670 Drum Machine	1	\$300	\$300
Recording Studio		Headphones	1	\$200	\$200
Recording Studio		2 Headphones (Dry Mixing) 60 x 2	2	\$60	\$120
Recording Studio		TRS Patch Cable 8 Pack	1	\$30	\$30
Recording Studio		Rack	1	\$200	\$200
Recording Studio		Mixer Mackie MKII; ONYX 1620 I	1	\$1200	\$1200
Recording Studio		SM57 Vocal Mic	3	\$120	\$360
Blank CDs	TDK CDR-W		500	.20	\$100
				GRAND TOTAL:	\$9525